THE WEEKLY COMMERCIAL,

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING, CONTAINING ALL THE CURRENT NEWS, MISCELLANEOUS, LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE AND VALUABLE READING FOR THE FAMILY.

TERMS OF THE WEEKLY:

Per Year (By mail).....$2 00
In Clubs of Twenty.....1 50
One copy, gratis to the getter-up of the Club.

The money must always accompany the order, or in no instance can the paper be forwarded from the office.

☞ Postmasters are requested to act as Agents.

☞ Communications designed for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

☞ Letters on Business, Subscriptions, &c., address

COMMERCIAL, PITTSBURGH.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. VIII.---NO. 7. WEEKLY EDITION. DECEMBER 17, 1870.

ASSASSINATION OF LINCOLN.

LECTURE OF JOHN H. SURRATT

His Connection With Booth.

THE ABDUCTION PLOT EXPLAINED.

John A. Surratt, one of the alleged conspirators in the plot to assassinate President Lincoln, made a full confession of his knowledge of the same, in the shape of a lecture delivered in the Court House at Rockville, Maryland, a few miles distant from Washington, Wednesday night. A correspondent of the following opening extract covers the features containing the most interest:

In this, my first lecture, I will speak of my introduction to J. Wilkes Booth, his plan its failure, or final separation, my flight from Richmond and thence to Canada; then my orders to Elmira, what I was there, and the first intimation I had of Mr. Lincoln's death. I will next speak of the part I, myself, was destined to play in the abduction plot. He says the witness Weichman, he was the correspondent of the Montreal Star, was in the abduction plot, and while a clerk in the War Department, was in possession of all the knowledge of Federal troops, which the latter conveyed to Richmond.

NEW YANKEE-LAND.

Letter from Tullahoma, Tenn.--A Land Company Organized--The Place Rapidly Improving--The Golden Opportunity for Manufacturers.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial
TULLAHOMA, Tenn., November 32, 1870.

My letters, through your admirable journal, have elicited a number of enquiries, and as I have been requested to organize a Land Company here to assist emigrants in buying, selling and advertising and sell all sorts of properties, situated within a radius of ten miles of this place. They are now at work on the plat, and December 10th will issue a descriptive circular which will be sent on application. Should the letter in your paper, there has been such ingress of strangers to this place that our large hotel, the Norton, is now a three-story building, seventy by fifty on Atlantic street and sixty by forty on Jackson street, which is insufficient to accommodate the crowd. I will just mention here that Mrs. Norton, the lady of the hotel, is a most estimable lady, and makes this a home for the emigrant, and charges are moderate.

There is now in process of erection a grist store, a dry goods store, a Northern Methodist church, a grist mill and a saddle and harness factory, and twelve private residences, with four tost being finished. Several parties have been commissioned to erect a large agricultural implement factory; and no point in the United States offers more inducements. To illustrate what such an establishment could do, as well as a foundry and carriage factory, I will detail what a party of energetic fellows have done in one day last week, within a radius of ten miles of this place. Mr. Cowan, of Lexington, Kentucky, reached here on Monday with a car load of cooking stoves and a load of castings. Early on Saturday evening they had sold seventy-five cook stoves at forty-seven dollars a piece! They say they can sell two hundred cook stoves in middle Tennessee! Now, I may positively assert, that a foundry and carriage factory, for carriages, wagons, plows, drills, rakes, threshing-machine, and other agricultural implements, can be located in this country, in the same time. Every station sees this, but the capital and a knowledge of business is wanted. Iron abound in a country so well wooded as this, with iron and coal in close contact, all kinds of kinds must be brought here a thousand miles to supply the demand! Mr. Rhodes, an old settler in this place (another) has in his shingle here; so also does Dr. Cox, a learned physician of this. The independent for the passage of the Tullahoma Railroad through this place, are soon as almost to warrant the assurance of that event. But we have the great Southern Trunk Road now, and our future is beyond peradventure.

Persons desiring information may hereafter address the Tullahoma Real Estate and Land Company.

W. T. BORNITZ.

SWINDLING THE REVENUE.

Great Frauds in Importing Woolen Goods.

The Government Defrauded of Two Million Dollars.

WASHINGTON, December 16—Judge Kelley, member of Congress from Philadelphia, has been hard at work for some days past in detecting out and exposing what is known as fleeced woolen goods frauds.

The matter is of great interest to the woolgrowers and manufacturers. It is alleged that for two years past English merchants, in connection with their agents and a number of American merchants, have been practicing a shrewd game of fraud on this government. Large quantities of woolen clothes are imported under the assumption that they are made from calf or cow hair, and are entered at a duty of 35 per cent., when in fact they are made from cotton waste, and the only wool as an admixture of calf hair.

The act of March 2, 1870, provides on woolen cloths and shawls, and all manufactures of wool not otherwise provided for, a duty of fifty cents per pound and thirty-five per cent. ad *valorem* must be paid.

On the 13th of June the Secretary of the Treasury issued an order that these so-called calf hair goods should be classified as woolen goods, and duty paid as such. It was sufficiently represented to the Secretary that these goods were calf hair, and that a patent had been obtained for making them wholly from cow or calf hair. He then modified his first order, saying that a certain form of affidavit should be made by the shipper of the goods, asserting that they were made entirely from cow and calf hair, and that they could be entered as cow or calf hair goods; but made it incumbent on the appraiser to have such invoices examined, and if anything other than calf hair or cotton were found in these they should be classified as woolen goods.

In November the Collector of the port of Philadelphia received instructions from the Treasury Department to the effect that if the invoices are correct and the affidavit made by the shipper, that nothing but calf hair and cotton form any of these goods, and the appraisers find them to be such, then they shall be liable to duty at only 35 per cent., making it absolute on the appraiser, no matter what the goods are made of if accompanied with the above mentioned certificate, to pass them as manufactures of calf or cow's hair. From this it can be seen that the orders to the New York and Philadelphia collectors are widely different. It is said that the order of the entire destroyed the woolen shawl trade; that the woolen mills have been making heavy goods upon which to use the calf hair, and apply because the foreign made goods have been allowed to come in under the new ruling.

Judge Kelley claims to have proved to the President and Secretary Boutwell that the American Consul at Huddersfield, England, had discovered the fraudulent manner in which these certificates were filled out, and that as a result in the discontinuance of friendly relations. Judge Kelley claims that he can show that over $2,200,000 worth of them have passed the entries between the 13th of June and the 1st of October, the additional duty on which would be handsome.

Putting together all the goods that have been imported under the name of calf hair, and during the above mentioned time, from the moment to about ten million pounds, so that, he says, if the Secretary does not at once attend to all cases promptly as they arise. Under these circumstances, Mr. Sawope suggested that the Treasury appoint a board of three to

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1870.

THE *Industrial Bulletin*, in giving the reasons for the defeat of the Hon. D. J. MORRELL for Congress says, "there were (in Huntingdon county) at least fifty disappointed candidates for postoffices, who had to get their revenge out of somebody." This is not an isolated case. We entertain not a doubt that as a rule members of Congress will bear witness that the patronage of which they have the disposal, costs them a great deal more than it is worth, and that the greatest trouble they have to contend with is filling the offices. It is a good sign that the opinion is growing among Republicans that the present system of making appointments is a nuisance which can be removed only by a thorough and comprehensive reform in the Civil Service. For every office, as a general thing, a score of applicants clamor. It being possible for only one to succeed the others become sore-heads bound to "get their revenge out of somebody." It is this "revenge" that has defeated more than one faithful Representative, while it is equally a fact that the reckless and sometimes corrupt exercise of the power conferred by custom on members of Congress has brought odium on the party, entailed on it serious losses, and sometimes contributed to its defeat.

MR. C. A. HESING, of Chicago, a German-American who attended upon the transportation of benevolent contributions for the German army from Berlin to Versailles, gives a very interesting account of his observations in the Illinois *Staats-Zeitung*. On the second day after his arrival at Versailles he dined at a hotel which enjoys the honor of accommodating the High-mightinesses of the Headquarters. In fact he saw almost the "entire menagerie of German princes," and was greatly impressed with the pomp of their appearance, the elegance of their uniforms, their splendid carriages, and the rich and costly abundance in which they lived even in war time. Having seen all this splendor, he was not a little puzzled to comprehend how it comes about that a country capable of maintaining its Princes in such excellent style, can quietly see the soldiers who fight its battles subsist on such a dietitation as was constantly apparent. "The whole way from Weissenberg to Versailles nothing but misery on misery," he says. It would not be easy to imagine a more distressing account than the letter gives of the sufferings endured by the sick and wounded soldiers from the total neglect of the government to make decent provision for their wants. Men wounded or laboring under dysentery or typhus fever, without underclothing, or any change, without even straw to lie on or any covering. MR. HESING assures us that he never saw a sick or wounded man conveyed in an ambulance properly furnished, or even in passenger cars. He denounces the contempt of the Prussian authorities for the men no longer serviceable, as something horrible and inhuman. "Here," he says, "they are also indescribably mean, as they take clothing and other articles provided by benevolence for the sick and wounded, and give them to those who are well. Even the Royal Body Guard have been thus furnished! It appears that the HOHENZOLLERNS still understand economy as well as they understood it in the time of VOLTAIRE. Even the surgeons are not adequately furnished with the instruments of their profession. We report only a few and, perhaps, not the most grievous items of the letter. Thus treated, it is not strange that the private soldiers are very tired of the war. MR. HESING says:

"Enthusiasm I have not found, or heard of. 'O, if it were only over; if we could only go home.' Such expressions indicate the feeling the soldiers have. The German unity, added to the fine, as the discipline is remarkable; but I affirm that, if the soldiers were asked the question: Do you prefer to serve three months longer, if we must get Alsace and Lothringen, or to go home at once, without adding those provinces to Germany? nine tenths of all the soldiers would choose the latter alternative. Were the poor fellows treated like men, it might be different."

We may add that the essential details of MR. HESING's letter as to the disgraceful treatment of the sick and wounded in the German armies, are confirmed by a correspondent of the *Augsburg Gazette*, whose letter is cited in the German-American papers.

THE adoption by the House of Representatives of Mr. KELLEY's resolution on the subject of revenue and taxation, by a vote almost unanimous, has much significance. Although the resolution has been twice printed in our columns, we reproduce it as it passed with only six votes in the negative:

Resolved, That the true principle of revenue reform applies to the abolition of the internal revenue system, which was created as a war measure, and, public faith for its payment and obliviance, which involves the employment, at the cost of millions of dollars annually, of an army of assessors, collectors, supervisors, detectives and other officers previously unknown, and the gathering of the remainder of the duties consistent with the faith and credit of the Government, and of all stamps and other internal taxes, and that the proceeds of such duties shall be retained on distilled spirits, tobacco and imported liquors as will cover all the expenses of the Government requires the collection of any sum from internal taxes.

In this connection it is interesting and instructive to refer to the language of General GRANT in his recent message. As it is commendatorily alluded to, which the House has just taken, he says: "By "steadiness in the present course there is "no reason why, in a few short years, the "national tax-gatherer may not disappear "from the door of the citizen almost entirely. With the revenue stamps "dispensed by postmasters in every "community; a tax upon liquors of all "sorts and tobacco in all forms; by a wise "adjustment of the tariff which will put "duty only upon those articles we could "dispense with, known as luxuries, and on "those which we use more of than we produce, revenue enough may be raised after a few years' experience for the consequent reduction of indebtedness to fulfil our obligations. A further reduction of expenses, in addition to the reduction of "the interest account, may be effected not to "make this practicable."

And again: "As soon as the revenue can "be dispensed with all duty *should be removed from coffee, tea, and other articles of "universal use not produced by ourselves.*"

And still more emphatically: "The necessities of the country compel us to collect revenues from our imports. An army "of assessors and collectors is not a pleasant sight to the citizen, but that or a tariff for revenue is necessary. *Such a "tariff, so far as it acts as an encouragement "for home production, affords employment to "labor at living wages in contrast to the pauper labor of the Old World, and also in the "development of home resources.*"

MR. MOTLEY is said to be preparing a sort of defense of his course as American Minister to England, the publication of which may be expected in a short time. It is not unlikely that the distinguished historian feels slightly uncomfortable on account of his summary recall from London, especially when he remembers the circumstances under which his official residence at Vienna came to a conclusion. His diplomatic career must be admitted to have been rather unsatisfactory, if not inglorious.

Its failure, however, has had its compensations. Recalled from his post in Austria, he was almost universally regarded by his countrymen as having deserved better treatment than he had received, and his appointment as minister to England was received by the entire nation as an honor to which he was entitled equally on the score of indemnity for the past and of his signal merits.

At the time of Mr. MOTLEY's nomination to Vienna, his desire to use the imperial library there in the prosecution of his historical researches, was understood to be his chief motive in accepting the position. The comparatively light official duties of the place probably interfered but little with his labors of investigation. The official duties undertaken by the American Minister in England are believed to be rather laborious and difficult. Indeed, including the duties of giving and eating dinners and of making speeches, they must be exceedingly onerous, and hardly compatible with those pursuits to which Mr. MOTLEY is known to be devoted, and by which he has earned his fame. Apart, therefore, from the affront of the dismissal, one can easily imagine that he is not sorry to be finally released from the toils of diplomacy, and at liberty once more to give all his time and energies to history. Whether agreeable or not to him, the transfer is likely to be of advantage to the world. The "History of the United Netherlands" will now be finished under very favorable circumstances. As readers know, the Queen of Holland has assigned a palace, with all its accommodations, to the historian, as a residence while engaged in the completion of his work. Some may be interested in knowing that the high lady who thus liberally encourages literature, is a German princess, the daughter of the late King William of Wurtemburg. She is represented as very accomplished, and even learned. One of our German contemporaries says of her:

"Like so many highly educated ladies in Germany, she early showed a decided taste for science and literature, and at a later period, in the pursuits of philosophy and history, and in the society of eminent scholars and artists she sought consolation and compensation for the unhappy fortune which had united her to one of the most abandoned princely profligates."

IF at any previous time any one had predicted that the Pennsylvania Central Railroad would in our day be absorbed by New York managers, and that Philadelphia, by selling to them her stock, would contribute to that result, few would have believed the prediction. And yet, according to the representations of the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, elsewhere printed, such a peril is imminent. What must at first incline one to reject the statements of that paper is the improbability of the astute managers of the Central being overreached by the New York roads. We would rather believe that the Central managers themselves, or others for them, have become purchasers, for it is impossible to believe that the Philadelphia authorities would make so heavy sales without knowing or caring who were the purchasers, since it was by the possession of so large an interest that the city has exerted an influence—though not great perhaps—in shaping the policy of the company. Is it probable that any considerable amount of Central stock has been sold by the city authorities without the knowledge of the principal officers of the company? If the city has made any such sale regardless of consequences, few will be disposed to sympathize with *her* if the result should be a loss. The *Inquirer* does not share our fears. We suspect that the truth is, that the Central managers have for some time felt that the exactions of Philadelphia were more than equal to any return she could make, and that perfect freedom to regard her like any other considerable point on the great route between the West and New York was greatly to be desired by the principal Central managers. Her expectations were not always reasonable, and the company were always expected to do something extra for her. It has been her boast that the Central was a Philadelphia institution, managed in her interest, and in some sort the company have seemed to deem it politic to apparently acquiesce, while in reality New York was the main base of operations, the main source of business, and the reliance of the Road at tide water. Now is it not just possible that the managers have concluded to emancipate the Road from the feeble yet annoying bondage imposed by Philadelphia by becoming purchasers of her stock? Certainly such a suggestion, improbable as some may regard it, is more likely than that the able and wide-awake Central managers should have been caught napping by rivals.

"THERE will be no attempts made to disturb Mr. SCHURZ in his position on any of the committees. There is a growing desire for harmony, and Mr. Schurz will be allowed to show his hand. He cannot afford to remain long in an equivocal position, so an early announcement is expected."

So writes the correspondent of the New York *Times*. It is probably well to defer for the present the execution of Mr. SCHURZ, whose offense, we believe, is of having with a majority of the Republicans of Missouri supported and assisted to elect an irregular Republican candidate for Governor of that State. He doubtless deserves to have something done to him, but who, being pure enough to cast the first stone, is going to do it? From the time of the announcement of General GRANT's original Cabinet, with Mr. STEWART the free-trader for Secretary of the Treasury, down to the present, similar "irregularities," have been committed by high and low among Republicans, not only in Washington but nearly everywhere else; and though doubtless Mr. SCHURZ's offense is very great, who will say that it is so much greater than anybody else has committed that an example must be made of him? A great deal of nonsense has been expended about turning Republicans out of the party, as though the process, when once begun, would not prove little less than self-destruction.

A LETTER of a devout woman in Rome represents the Holy Father as greatly encouraged, as indeed kept in a state of almost feverish excitement by the letters which he daily receives from influential people in different parts of the Catholic world. These letters not only express the liveliest sympathy for the Pope in his affliction, but confidently promise him speedy deliverance and the punishment of his Italian enemies. Among the most gratifying of these communications is one received a short time ago from General TROCHU. In it General T. says that he had intended to retire from active service at the close of the present war, but had abandoned this purpose in consequence of the events which had taken place in Italy. Just as soon as he can be spared in France, it is his fixed resolve to use all his influence, his personal service included, to restore His Holiness to the possession of his temporal throne. We may remark that the purport of this message will hardly surprise any one who has read General TROCHU's little book on the French army, in which the devout spirit of the author is clearly revealed.

THE sending of PORTER's name to the Senate nominating him FARRAGUT's successor as Admiral, we regard as equivalent to the act of ordering a man to execution instead of reprieving him. The appointment, so far as the President is concerned, was made months ago. It is true that it might have been withdrawn, but he appears to prefer to commit the sailor to the mercies of the Senate. It is impossible that General GRANT can take of the matter any other view than that which in nine cases out of ten is taken by the press, especially since it is pretty evident that the publication by PORTER, in his own defense, of what purports to be a diary, kept at the time the letter was written, is an invention, and a poor one at that. The Senate will have no hesitation in disposing of his case; and if it can be made to appear, beyond doubt, that, as many believe, the diary is an invention, dismissal from the service would not be too severe a penalty for resorting to a "dodge" so discreditable.

THE New York *Herald* declares that Tammany, with HOFFMAN for its candidate, has entered the field, determined to win—win "with money." The machinery of Tammany for making HOFFMAN President is just beginning to work. A Georgia editor, with Republican proclivities, has just returned from New York, where he was thick with Tammany leaders, and hoisted HOFFMAN's name. Money is being freely expended in establishing papers—"good enough MORGANS till after the election"—to advocate HOFFMAN. The accession of FISK to Tammany has been followed by a display of zeal and of tactics bearing a striking resemblance to the Erie management in general. In fact, Tammany and Erie are next door neighbors now. FISK boasts of owning HOFFMAN, and the proof is that HOFFMAN is perfectly obedient to FISK. Tammany is run on the Erie platform of morality, with JIM FISK for high priest.

THE supporters of Mr. DOUGLASS, of this State, for Commissioner of Internal Revenue, profess themselves sanguine of his appointment. Mr. CAMERON has been very active of late in his favor, and it is not understood that he is specially opposed. The President has, however, manifested considerable reluctance to make the appointment, and this in some quarters has been accounted for by attributing to him the wish to have the office elevated into a full Cabinet portfolio. This is not likely to be done, the tendency being rather to work as rapidly as possible towards the total abolition of the system which at present gives employment to that officer. In his message, the President takes such a hopeful view of the prospect in this respect that Congress is far more likely to adopt it in preference to a course of action that contemplates an army of tax assessors and collectors as a permanent necessity.

THE publication of letters, in the writing of which about each other public men have pretty freely indulged in the last half dozen years, is not, if half what we hear is true, likely to end with PORTER's letter to WELLES, nor even with BUTLER's suppressed book on GRANT. When a thing becomes fashionable or degenerates into a mania, there is no knowing to what it will lead. More PORTER letters are to come, and the BUTLER-GRANT book progressed too far to render it possible to stretch over it the mantle of oblivion; and antagonisms, old and new, will bring out letters involving others no less unpleasantly. There will be a fine chance for the display of magnanimity, but it is doubtful whether everybody will be disposed to be as magnanimous as GRANT has been towards PORTER, or even whether he can keep up the flow of magnanimity to an indefinite extent.

IT is entirely evident the United States Senate is not in sympathy with General GRANT on the St. Domingo question. In that body the impression prevails that it is a huge job, which view is very extensively concurred in outside of the Senate. We are not aware that any one believes that General GRANT is influenced by other than the sincerest convictions of duty and policy, and it is altogether probable that what, purely on its own merits, would command successful support as a prudent and timely measure will fail disastrously for having been made the occasion of a grand speculation by persons who have identified themselves with it. It is only to be hoped that the Senate will, on all questions, adopt a course of action equally lofty. The day of jobs and all sorts of schemes not compatible with strict honesty and the public good we then might feel sure had been indefinitely postponed in the Senate.

LET no one suppose that because General PLEASANTON, instead of Mr. DOUGLASS, has been appointed Commissioner of the Internal Revenue, Mr. CAMERON is bathed in tears. He did, it is true, ask for Mr. DOUGLASS, in a kind of way; but all the time he was intent on making Mr. FORNEY Postmaster General, a scheme which Mr. DOUGLASS's appointment would have upset, and so DOUGLASS himself was upset. Mr. CAMERON will now appear on the stage in the character of The Indignant Senator to demand that, having failed in getting DOUGLASS, the President must give Pennsylvania FORNEY; and Senator SCOTT, and all the Republican members, who unanimously and sincerely supported DOUGLASS, are expected to join CAMERON in making the demand. Perhaps they will—if they don't find out CAMERON's little trick!

WHETHER Mr. KELLEY, Mr. DAWES, or Mr. MAYNARD shall succeed Gen. SCHENCK, as Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, is a question which is just now exciting considerable interest. Messrs. KELLEY and MAYNARD are at present members of the Committee, while Mr. DAWES is not. It has been supposed that KELLEY stood the better chance, but the friends of DAWES are very active, and profess a good deal of confidence that he will win. He is the oldest member in continuous service in the House, and KELLEY comes next after him. While the Massachusetts member has scarcely a hair in his head that would not rebel against the suggestion of free trade, the friends of protection recognize the Pennsylvania member as not only their champion but the better qualified member for the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ways and Means.

A CANVASS of the House shows that a majority of the members will not vote to admit SCHENCK, by the "counting in" of the vote of the soldiers of the Dayton Asylum. The position taken is that with the Ohio Supreme Court decision directly before them, the election officers could not but observe it. But while SCHENCK will not be admitted neither will CAMPBELL, because it is further held that while the votes cannot be counted for SCHENCK, still they were rejected illegally, and that is sufficient for the purpose. In case this curious decision is made, Gen. SCHENCK will not enter the canvass. In regard to his acceptance of the English mission, it is said his private business cannot be arranged for his departure before two months, while he will also be delayed to finish up the business in the hands of the Ways and Means Committee.

"THE insignificant coal trade" of Pittsburgh, as its enemies are pleased to term it, received during the month of November, 1870, from the mines upon the slackwater of the Monongahela, 5,388,400 bushels of coal. In November, 1869, the receipts from that district were 1,881,200 bushels. The increase alone of 3,574,200 bushels for one month would require for its transportation 715 railroad trains of twenty cars each, and ten tons to the car. The most of this immense quantity of coal, too, went down the river in a single "rise," and any delay or loss in transportation by reason of wrongly constructed railroad bridges involves, as is seen, an amount equal to a hundred railroad trains. Yet, this is a "paltry and decaying" interest!

IT seems probable that, unless some secret influence is at work to produce a contrary result, the income tax will be repealed. Few persons are now found to advocate its continuance, while among the press those papers which formerly resisted its repeal, as a general thing now either openly acquiesce or give consent by silence. Under the reduced rate and increased exemptions of last session the tax for the year ending June next will probably produce about $18,000,000. The probable total abolition of this tax and the action of the House of Representatives on Mr. KELLEY's resolution to confine the internal tax to whisky and tobacco, are encouraging evidences of a healthy sentiment in and out of Congress.

GOV. GEARY has issued his proclamation, as required by law, "declaring the payment, cancellation, extinguishment and final discharge of one million, six hundred and two thousand, three hundred and twenty-one dollars, and thirty-five cents, of the principal debt of this Commonwealth." Such proclamations are in the highest degree gratifying, more especially as the year in the public mouth of the States, which have to report increased debts. The large sum named is the reduction of the debt from the first day of December, 1869 to the thirtieth day of November, 1870. To Messrs. JORDAN, HARTRANFT and IRWIN, Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, much credit is due for their skillful management of the State's finances.

IT is a curious thing to observe that Mr. SUMNER, though he was an ardent advocate of the Alaska purchase, is intensely hostile to the acquisition of San Domingo. It bothers some people to discover why the one is so valuable, while the other is worthless and even dangerous. Mr. WELLS tells a story of the late eminent JOHN C. SPENCER which illustrates how some persons are blind to the most obvious measures simply because little adroitness was used in enlisting them; a species of management for which Mr. SEWARD is famous. Query: Was Mr. SUMNER's advocacy of Alaska due to the adroitness of Mr. SEWARD in gaining his influence for the purchase, and has a blunder been made by the San Domingo advocates in this respect?

SENATOR SCOTT, by his prompt movement for the repeal of the ragged remainder of the Income Tax, has correctly interpreted public sentiment, not only in Pennsylvania but at large. The tax is a standing offense among the national statutes, the abolition of which the people will not cease to demand. The ablest speech made in either House at the last session against it was by Senator SCOTT, who renews the attack with increased determination. Senator CAMERON is reported to have said that he voted at the last session for the repeal of the tax against his conscience; he therefore probably cannot be counted on to support his colleague in his present effort.

AT last the English Mission has been filled, the authorized announcement being that Gen. SCHENCK accepts the post and will depart as soon as possible. While he is not recognized as of the order of men usually selected for that station, we feel confident that the General will do nothing to discredit his country. In Congress he has shown himself to be a man of decided ability, perseverance and tact, and in his new field of service may prove the very best selection that could have been made.

IT is to be hoped that it is not expected that Gen. GRANT will make provision for all the defeated members and Senators. The number is considerable just now, and perhaps may not decrease for some time yet. Senator WARNER, who wanted only one vote to re-elect him to the United States Senate from Alabama, is the latest candidate for hospital orders, and the report is he will either be sent to Utah as Governor or made Commissioner of the General Land Office. He has made a very respectable Senator, and doubtless is capable of making an equally useful citizen —a class of which Alabama stands in need as much as anything else, and in this capacity it is suggested he, and others in the same fix, should consent to act for a while, and not bother Gen. GRANT for an office.

IT being evident in advance that unless a perfectly unexceptionable candidate was put forward for the vacant Senatorship in Philadelphia, the Republicans, though in a decided majority, would be beaten, caucus for once was wise, and Joseph R. LYNDALL nominated. "This election," says the *Inquirer*, "is so good an one in every way, as was also that of Colonel DECHERT by the Democratic Convention, for the same position, that we are disposed to believe the party leaders are beginning to understand that it is absolutely incumbent upon them, in order to succeed before the people, to put forward their very best representative men." Whenever it comes to be known that defeat will follow a bad nomination good ones will become the rule.

THE telegraph companies are again in harmony, "opposition" lines being cheek by jowl with the old "monopolies," according to a New York dispatch, which reports that the officials of the Western Union, the Atlantic and Pacific, and the Pacific and Atlantic, the Bankers and Brokers', and Franklin Telegraph Companies are in consultation, considering the propriety of increasing the present price rates of telegraph tolls to all the prominent points in the United States. The public can only pray that it may not be true that the tariff rates on private messages and press dispatches will be increased fifty per cent. to take effect January 1st, for as matters stand it cannot help itself.

MR. CAMERON, it is said, is not really in earnest for Mr. DOUGLASS for Commissioner of Internal Revenue, his real game being to bring Mr. FORNEY into the Cabinet in Mr. CRESSWELL's place, if that gentleman will only be so accommodating as to retire from the Postoffice Department. Gen. GRANT is understood to hesitate about appointing Mr. DOUGLASS, and looking for some one with a wider reputation. Mr. D. is very generally recommended, and his appointment would materially postpone Mr. FORNEY's claims, if he has any at all. Of him it can be said that if Gen. GRANT desires to harmonize Pennsylvania he will postpone all thoughts of Mr. FORNEY. The Republicans of the State cannot be made to indorse him.

MAYOR HALL has vetoed five wood pavement jobs, concerning which great expectations have been indulged on the part of those who have been working them up. Jobs of this description constitute a feature in many of the larger cities, and in some of them rich developments are likely to be made, notwithstanding the care which has been taken to cover things up. In our own city strange surmises are abroad of things done and intended. The public is a patient victim, the plucking of which has been reduced to a science by jobbers and contractors in conjunction with politicians, among whom the spoils are divided without any qualms of conscience.

SOME Democrats are trying to divert attention from the growth of the railroad power in politics by comparing it with the National Banks. But it should be remembered that the actual capital of the banks is four hundred and thirty-two million dollars, against over two thousand million invested in railroads; while the 1,610 banks scattered over the entire country probably did not employ a third the number of the 25,000 men of the Erie Railway that JIM FISK boasted would have to vote the Democratic ticket, if he told them to.

UNDER the heading of "Important Revelation," in a late French newspaper, it is stated that "among the wounded in the hospital of Chateaudun is a soldier who declares himself a Russian and not a Prussian." This soldier also affirms that there are actually more than twenty thousand Russians in the armies of BISMARCK. Upon this statement the editorial comment is, that "if true, the fact is one of the utmost gravity." The invention was no doubt suggested by the recent agitation of the Eastern question.

THE next sensation will be Mr. MOTLEY's defense of himself, so that the business which has been so long a scandal is to be safely put for an indefinite time to come. Mr. SUMNER, too, will take a hand in it, and he will probably not be alone. The public will be interested to know what really was the reason for Mr. MOTLEY's recall and what correspondence has taken place between him and the officials at Washington. It is for this reason that Mr. MOTLEY's explanation will be looked for with considerable interest.

"THE great question, and the one around which all others will oscillate this winter, is whether it is wise to save fine salt, coal and lumber."—*Chicago Tribune*.

Why not say free coffee, tea and other articles which the people consume and that are not produced in this country? What kind of political economy is it that lets in free those things which we grow and make, and lays heavy taxes on those things which we neither grow nor make, but must have to eat, drink and wear? And yet this is just what the trade Free-Trade reformers advocate.

A NEW YORK letter to the New Orleans *Bulletin* says pipe laying to secure the Democratic Presidential nomination has begun, and thinks "the next Convention will be more influential by considerations of availability than of orthodox principle." To put the case strongly for the latitude of Louisiana, he declares that "a victory on any terms has become as essential to the party as the winning of a battle was to the Confederacy in the latter days of its existence." The nub appears in the statement that "thus far HOFFMAN is considered the available man."

FISK, Prince of Erie, having agreed with Tammany to furnish the money to buy HOFFMAN's nomination, nothing would be more proper than that FISK should go into the Treasury Department in case of HOFFMAN's election. Is that the bargain? It would be all of a piece and strictly according to Tammany.

Does the *Tribune* wish to be understood as holding that PORTER's "opinions" of General GRANT as expressed in the WELLS letter were proper in themselves, only that he was "indiscreet" in putting them "on paper?"

The *North American* frankly admits that the Philadelphia real estate market is dull, and "the amount of sales is so great as to generate apprehensions of a crash." This state of affairs, not only affecting real estate, throwing a gloom over trade, and preventing the investment of capital in business as it would be desirable, is attributed to the absence of the buyers of the middle and operative classes, who have absorbed the property that persons of liberal means took the chance to sell at a profit, and which they hold in advance. That is a confession that the city is at a stand still in growth in population, if the *American* will but see it. Still some causes are at work which may prevent a fall in real estate. Prominent among these is an extensive system of private improvements in the central wards, which have been delayed until within two years because capitalists held the property. The stagnation resulting from these large speculative holdings of land is still felt, and there is a warning to ill-liberal proprietors-holders in that locality to avoid a like error. The number of these improvements, thus hurried into existence in two years, instead of being made gradually and all the time, "creates a larger supply of business places than there is a demand for. Enterprise has been so long discouraged and driven away that the young, bold, vigorous concerns that ought to be always coming up to fill new places go elsewhere, and therefore are not seeking locations here."

SOME American women are making a great cry that we have lost our type of "style" since the sun of Paris has been eclipsed in Prussian smoke. It to dress in good taste means style, then we think such women had better "sell out," since good taste means only good common sense. When the latter quality is lacking a garment of interwoven gold will not conceal the defect.

CONDITION OF STRASBURG.

From a recent account we gather the following notes concerning the effect of the German bombardment on the city of Strasburg. While one half of the city of Kehl is laid in ruins—though the magnificent bridge, with the exception of one span on the Baden side, is in perfect condition—Strasburg proper shows fearful signs of destruction. The citadel is a mass of ruins—every building battered or burned down—the enormous gates crushed to fragments. On the northern portion of the city a belt extending back some six hundred feet from the ramparts, is completely desolate from fire; chimneys and walls alone standing, much like the "forty five" ruins of Pittsburgh, no doubt. Shells have been yet more merciless than fire, for they have contributed even in knocking over the walls. In front of this portion the ramparts are battered into chaos. One of the gates, *La Pierre*, with its adjacent walls, forty feet high and fifty or sixty feet thick, with all its strength, has not escaped the general ruin.

The damage done the Cathedral will apparently be easily repaired, as they consist in sundry holes through the roof, and part of the tracery-work and balconies knocked from their places. It is observed that in the cathedral this is generally apparent, since the military authorities allow no one to ascend the spire, pronouncing it insecure. The clock is still intact. Nought but the walls of the library remain. In all about 500 buildings have been destroyed.

THE New York *Tribune* has a letter from Chicago under date of December 1st, in which distilling is said to be at a stand, the ruling prices not justifying increased production. He think "that the present rate of internal revenue tax on whisky will be but of temporary good effect to the country, and in the end none whatever, but rather an injury; while to the revenue, past experience would seem to indicate that it would be a most unwise measure.

The West is said to be hoping for a rebate on spirits reported, equal in amount to nearly the tax collected, believing that it would greatly stimulate the distilling production at home and the home consumption of the corn crop, both benefiting the section and being safe from the political revenue.

The packing of pork, down to the present time, has reached about 125,000 head at this point; smaller interior points are promising to make heavy returns on last year's prices for hogs are kept up to a point that leaves little or no profit to packers. Good hogs are from $6.50 to $6.60 per 700 pounds gross; extra choice at $6.75; mess pork, $19.50 to $19.75, and for future delivery about $1 less.

General business is very fair and there is a feeling of confidence among our merchants. Money promises to be abundant during the winter months the needs of our packers will be very considerable.

ONE or two facts of importance, in connection with any troubles likely to be encountered with Canada, are given by the New York *Times*. One is that the bluster that the refusal of the privilege of transporting goods in bond will seriously affect the commercial interests of the province of Ontario, at least putting its merchants at the mercy of their rivals in Quebec. Another is that neither Great Britain nor the Dominion is manufacturing arms and ammunition to any considerable extent. The small quantity of powder supplied to the Canadian militia is all manufactured at the Government powder mills at Waltham Abbey, and the total annual production of these mills is only fifty-five tons. The Government arsenal at Quebec is a mere repository for arms, and the only manufactory of small arms in the Dominion is a private establishment at Montreal, which has a capacity of 10,000 stand per annum, but which has never turned out more than 3,000 in a year.

TWO queer accidents have occurred lately on the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada. At Brighton, a few nights since, a train was due at 2 o'clock in the morning, but was asleep when an order to "cross" two trains reached him. The trains collided when one was running thirty-five miles an hour. Four men were killed, and about $40,000 of loss was incurred. At St. Hyacinthe, a passenger broke a jar in a second-class car, spilling four gallons of highwines over the floor. A man asked the conductor of passengers as to whether the liquid was vinegar or whisky, and to test it, one of the disputants lit a match and threw it on the floor. He kicked the match under the stove of the car. The brakeman, with great presence of mind, held the door open, and also pulled some of the passengers out through the windows.

TWO trains, one of which was running thirty miles an hour, met on the Grand Trunk Railroad, between Colborne and Brighton, a few days since, and the result was as follows, says the *Telegraph*: When the two locomotives struck they both swerved to the north of the track, and passed each other without further wrecks. Their swinging clear of the track also saved the baggage and wooden cars from striking one another. The fourth backward car on the eastward-bound train was loaded with eight barrels of whisky. These were thrown clear over the tops of the others, and, breaking in the roof of the baggage car, flooded the floor of the general wreck. The oil coming in contact with the live coals from the locomotive, commenced to burn furiously, and soon the two trains were on fire.

JUDGE LAWRENCE declines to permit his name to be used in connection with the Presidency. In his letter declining he says, according to the Chicago *Tribune* says: "This decision will be received with regret, not only by many members of the Legislature, but by the people of the State generally, who, however much they may differ with other candidates, would, with very great unanimity, acquiesce in the selection of a jurist so distinguished, and a gentleman so irreproachable as Judge Lawrence." By his letter it is evident the argument that General Logan has a sure thing on the Senatorship is questioned most decidedly in different quarters of Illinois.

PORTER may delude himself with the impression that because his name has been sent to the Senate new lines of steamers will be put not held in contempt by the great body of the American people; less, however, on account of his Welles letter than the poltroon performance in Southern waters. That performance would certainly have justified General Grant in withdrawing the nomination for the rank he has, but not to take his own view of the matter. It is not, however, the views of many fair minded persons, who wish nothing but good to the President. Nothing can redeem Porter—not even the withdrawal of his name as a candidate. On the Democratic side General Cass, of this city, Jeffers got Wallace and some others aspire to the position.

The Washington *Reporter* is still anxious to know how the money went in the late political campaign. It says:

"It is stated that the total expenditures, in the campaign of the Republican Congressional committee, including the Pennsylvania campaign, and expenses of every character, were about fifty thousand dollars. We acknowledge the contribution for this information, and hope the Committee will go one step further. Let them itemize or localize their accounts, so that we may be able to ascertain the happy districts in which those steps were expended. We are very curious to see the account current with the Twenty-fourth Pennsylvania."

P. Gray Meek, of Bellefonte, is mentioned in connection with the Democratic Speakership of the House of Representatives.

SMALL NOTES.

While (some) women are clamoring for more power they seem to forget that they are the most potent power in this country. Besides forming the immortal souls of their own children, they are also, in the capacity of "school marms," taking the lines out of male hands in the education of the minds of other peoples' This is proved by the fact that three-fourths of all the teachers in the Union are females. Could they wish a broader field of action, or a power more noble?

Journalists will "kick up a rumpus" wherever they are. Just now they are said to be making trouble in Russia by trying to incite the populace against Germany, while the old governmental bears don't want said populace incited at all.

Now that winter is rapidly coming on, let us all not forget the poor. Those that have no money to *donate* can help along by getting their boots blacked, thereby giving the bootblack a chance of earning his evening's bread. Then there are the newsboys who make their profit —let us all buy the papers. In this last hint we may be considered as interested party but, "*Honi soit qui mal y pense.*"

Havre, which the telegraph announces as occupied by the Prussians, is a very important city and seaport on the south shore of the British Channel. It is 134 miles northwest from Paris, fifty-five and a half miles west from Rouen. Louis XII., in the first years of the 16th century, was its founder, and Francis, I., began its fortifications which were enlarged by the unfortunate Louis XVI., in 1786. These are the fortifications now in use, but are replaced by modern detached forts at some distance from the city under the rule of the present Wilhelmshohn boarder. Its former name was Ville Francoise, but from which it took its present Christian title, *Havre de Grace* Harbor of Mercy. It has an immense trade with all the world, and no doubt the Prussians' object in gaining or endeavoring to gain possession of it, is to cut off as slow little commerce in arms with the United States.

Foxes at fairs are not confined to our smoky atmosphere alone. The Jews are holding one in New York, and a demure matron from some up-town boarding school horrifiedly puts her handkerchief over her chaste optics, bidding her poor deluded pupils turn away, because the "Circassian Slave," by Dubufe, a fine picture of a nude woman, is there on exhibition. Wonder how many sly peeps would steal forth were it the statue of Apollo Belvidere?

Diamonds are trumps, if we are to believe the dispatches from South Africa. During the month of September $450,950 worth were shipped from Cape Town.

It is stated in defense of Admiral Rowan, who has been censured for not furnishing the Oneida her proper complement of boats before she left Japan, that he was in a hurry to get home, and that hence Captain Williams was the senior officer, and had the right to procure boats, or not sail.

Talk of removing the capital has aroused the Washingtonians from their Rip Van-Winkle slumbers, and they are beautifying and improving their artistically ugly city. Is now agitating their formerly sleepy brains Wooden pavement on Pennsylvania avenue (they needed it in "the winter of our discontent"), paving the public grounds, &c., &c. Success 'till ye's.

From a letter in the New York *Tribune* we learn that many of the French guerrillas are mere boys of from 14 to 16 years old; that they make boldly and deadly attacks on Germans from behind trees, fences, &c; do not stand to fight when taken are invariably shot. Besides the fact is mentioned that the "Germans are rapidly becoming brutalized from this kind of work."

National asylums for disabled soldiers are reported on in Washington. If the country have such institutions why in the name of all-thy pennums do they not support our poor one-legged, and one-armed boys, and let them go to drudge through the land, grinding out the most doleful strains imaginable, earning at best a precarious living?

Street car horses are surely better fed and treated in New York than Pittsburgh. Recently last week a pair of them ran away, and, having fairly got their feet in, concluded to get their heads in also, which they did by dashing them through the window of a grocery store, to the evident joy of cat-boys, thereby frightening a fair one out of her—chignon, and hurling another into—not eternity, but the lap of an old bachelor. The bachelor has not yet recovered, It is feared he will become a raving maniac.

Tours, the modern capital of France, is quite an ancient city, and rejoices in the high and euphonious title of *Cæsarodunum*. It once was filled with a population of eighty thousand inhabitants industrious in the manufactures of silk and woolen goods, gloves, hats, &c., but the revocation of the Edict of Nantes drove off all the Huguenots, and with them the prosperity of manufactures. It now has but thirty-seven thousand souls, and little more will be heard of, only each day its name is blown through the trumpets of war to the ends of the earth.

The New York *Tribune* reviews the whole life of Napoleon III. to prove that he is a descendant of Louis XVI., and are the sole of Wilthemshohe.com ing to the sage conclusion that King William "could do no greater injury to his royal brother than to force him back upon that thorny throne."

At Paris the illegitimate births were (before the war) 28 per cent of the whole, and the number of deaths about 86 per cent of the number of births. These figures indicate more thoroughly into those "mysteries of Paris," all Eugene Sue's hundreds of quarto pages.

South America is certainly the most chaotic country on the face of the earth—conspiracy here—revolution there—ganchos in another place—new rebellions—revolutionary movements in the air—and now comes the Argentine asserting that Gen. Grant ridicules their wars, and getting a positive denial from American Minister—trouble twixt Ecuador and the United States of Columbia—trouble twixt Chili and Peru—trouble twixt Ecuador and the United States of Columbia—and so on for a column. Their volcanoes must be to blame for all this.

The French Government has again taken wings and flown, this time to the ancient and fashionable city of Bordeaux, principally known to modern wine-bibbers as Bordeaux. Not much farther can this same government fly without trying its wings over the waters of Henry and the Atlantic Ocean, for Bordeaux is only fifty-five miles by river from the coast. The new capital is situated on the left bank of Loire, where it makes a magnificent arch to the south, and has a population, with its suburb, *La Bastide*, on the opposite side of the river, one of the most superb city views of France. Although not on the coast it is one of the best ports of France, as vessels drawing twenty-two feet of water can reach it at high tide, and those of five hundred or six hundred tons at all times. The harbor will accommodate one hundred large vessels at one time, and is amply protected by heavy armed forts. The 150,000 inhabitants are the most refined and educated of any city in France after Paris. With the latter place there is no rivalry, as Paris is an inland city, with the sea, it is connected by good railroads. From Bordeaux proper to *La Bastide* a bridge which cost $1,300,000 and is eleven years in building, spans the seven hundred yards of water. Its trade extends to all quarters of the globe, the exports being chiefly wines and brandies. In ancient times it was among the first, and is one of the most certain in taste, its present defenses are those of the harbor.

Of its history space forbids mention, except of the facts that it was the headquarters of the Girondists during the revolution, hence suffered much when that party was robbed of power; was blockaded under Napoleon to the utter ruin of its commerce, hence, is, to this day strongly anti-Bonapartist, and as strongly Bourbonist;—and was the birth-place of one of England's weakest Kings, Richard II., as well as of her most valiant Prince, the Black Prince.

Whether the Germans wish to take it is a question, but if they do they will fight hard for it, since many thousands pipes of wine are already at hand, and on the way in the cellars of the *equartier des Chartrons*.

The coal fields of Iowa are embraced within a triangular-shaped territory whose apex is at Fort Dodge, the eastern and western points of whose base are respectively at the eastern and western

THE WAR.

FRANCE.

The Defense of Havre—Twelve Cars Hit Way Through the Prussian Lines.

HAVRE, December 12 via LONDON, December 13.—The Prussians are in force at Harfleur, eastern miles from the city. Havre is defended by a large force and three hundred and nine guns, manned by marines. The population are resolute to fight.

The Prussians threatening Honfleur have been repulsed by troops from this city, who now occupy Pontelevêque. It is rumored General Treuschen has cut his way through the Prussian lines.

Chanzy Successfully Defending the Line of the Loire.

BORDEAUX, December 12.—The following news is official: Gambetta writes the Government, under date of the 11th: "I have returned from Tours, having left General Chanzy yesterday continuing his efforts to successfully defend the line of the Loire. I think that all who are around it, if they only do their duty, will be enabled to do what can be done with the second army. It is reported at Zweibrück that General Bourbaki rejoined the Prussians yesterday.

De Chanzy Outgeneraled by Prince Frederick Charles.

Special to the World:]

MUNICH, December 12—Prince Frederick Charles has outgeneraled De Chanzy, holding his forces successfully engaged while he turned his position, and he now threatens his right flank and rear by sending the Eighteenth division and the Ninth Corps along the south bank of the Loire in the direction of Blois. The movement is considered a most masterly stroke. The Germans encountered no part of the French army between Montargis and Chambord and drove them across the river at Blois, and they now occupy positions commanding the passages of the river at that point. The Third and Tenth corps of Germans are continuing the pursuit of the French toward the South and southwest, but they have not yet proceeded in force beyond Vierzon and Gien.

The reported occupation of Bourges is incorrect. Spies and prisoners state that there is a considerable French force at Mere, another at Nouan, fragments of the Eighteenth and Twentieth corps.

Letters from Versailles say that eighty saltettes are already mounted and that the bombardment will commence on the 18th.

The French Concentrating at Lille.

LILLE, December 13.—It is rumored that La Fere has been retaken by the French troops, and that they are amply supplied with ammunition and provisions. Large masses of troops of all arms are concentrating here. The Mobiles are armed with new American revolvers.

ENGLAND.

The Luxemburg Matter.

LONDON, December 14—Bismarck, in a circular to the North German Ambassadors dated the 8th ult., protests against the proposed fortifications of Luxemburg on the fact that the Grand Duchy had forbidden the transit of wounded Germans and prisoners, and had sent ammunition to the French artillery, and had omitted to station French fugitives.

A correspondent of the Pall Mall *Gazette* at Berlin, credits the statement that the King of Holland, in view of the threatening aspect of affairs in Europe, has surrendered unconditionally. The Prussian troops marched into the place to-day.

The Restoration of Napoleon.

Special to the World:]

LONDON, December 13.—A correspondent at Versailles makes the following statement of a conversation on the political situation: Bismarck said that strong efforts are making for the restoration of the Emperor Napoleon; that the Empress Eugenie is now in Spain, and will be held without a French Plenipotentiary; that Prussia had no authority to appoint one just now, and that he could not recognize the authority of men of the pavement to sit among the brewers.

King William is excessively anxious to return home; he knows that the Prussian line suffering of the German troops on account of the cold.

Governor-General of Northern France.

LONDON, December 13, 11 P. M.—It is reported that General Von Fabrici, Saxon Minister of War, has been appointed Governor-General of Northern France of the King of Prussia.

PRUSSIA.

King William Announces Another Sue-

BERLIN, December 13—The Queen has received the following dispatch from King William:

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, TUESDAY, December 13.—After four days' fighting around Beaugency, the French retired to Binis and Fours. Their losses have been enormous. The Ninth came in on our lines here and at Rouen.

[Signed] WILLIAM.

Opening of the Baden Chambers.

CARLSRUHE, December 13.—The Baden Chambers were opened to-day with an address from the Grand Duke, who said he hoped that with the new reforms Germany might obtain the embodiment of national unity, now so strongly supported by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.	Clos'g.
U. S. Bonds '81	119¼	119¼	119¼
U. S. Bonds '62	107¾	107¾	107¾
U. S. Bonds '64	107¾	107¾	107¾
U. S. Bonds '65	107¾	107¾	107¾
U. S. Bonds '65 new	107¾	107¾	107¾
10-40s	104¾	104¾	104¾
Currency 6s	119	119	119

James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

U. S. Bonds '81	119¼	119¼	119¼
U. S. 5-20s, 1862	107¾	107¾	107¾
U. S. Bonds '64	107¾	107¾	107¾
U. S. Bonds '65	107¾	107¾	107¾
U. S. 5-20s, 1865	107¾	107¾	107¾
10-40s	104¾	104¾	104¾
U. S. Bonds, January and July, 1865			107¾
U. S. 5-20s, January and July, 1867			110¾
U. S. 5-20s, January and July, 1868			110¾
Union Pacific Railroad			92
Central Pacific Railroad			92
Currency Purifies			110¾

—The New York stock market sold down today severely on railways, especially on the Northwestern and St. Paul. It is said that the directors of the latter company will soon issue a circular to explain the manner in which the late dividend has been honestly earned. The dividend on common stock, which usually amounts to an increase of the capital, is subject to the ratification of a vote of the stockholders. The earnings of the road for the past year have been:

Increase	749
January 1 to December 7, 1870	7,041,275
January 1 to December 7, 1869	6,936,131
Increase	237,941

—The following table, made up from dispatches received at J. W. Kennedy's Stock rooms, Apollo building, No. 89 Fourth avenue, shows the prices at the New York Stock Exchange during the day:

December 14, 1870.	12:30	1:00	12:30	1:30	2:30	3:30
	M.	M.	M.	M.	M.	M.
U.S. 6s	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾
Do scrip	95	95	95	95	95	95
Gold	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾
Sterling						
Michigan Cent.	120¾		120¾		120¾	
Lake Shore	92¾	93	92¾	93	92¾	93
Illinois Cent.	138		138			
Cleve. & P.	94¾					
P. Ft. W. & C.	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾
Do pref'd	87¾	87¾	87¾	87¾	87¾	87¾
Do scrip						
Ft. Wayne	94¾	94¾	94¾	94¾	94¾	94¾
Chic. & Alton	141		141			
Do pref'd	116		116			
Rock Island	108		108			
A. & T. and Z.	35		35			
Do pref'd	70		70			
Toledo	97¾		97¾			
Wabash	47¾	47¾	47¾	47¾	47¾	47¾
Do pref'd						
Terre Haute	11		11			
Do pref'd	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾
Adams Ex.	56		56			
American	96		96			
United States	48		48			
Pacific Mail	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾

*Ex 5 ¾ cent dividend.

—Messrs. Boren & Fox, brokers and members of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, furnish the following quotations of the closing prices to-day of the most active stocks:

Pennsylvania Central	62¾
Philadelphia and Erie	27
Lehigh Navigation	59¾
Catawissa preferred	35
Old Creek and Allegheny Railroad	39
Lehigh Valley Railroad	59¾
North Pennsylvania Railroad	19
Camden and Amboy Railroad	119
Schuylkill Navigation	19¾
Reading	49¾

—Messrs. Iba H. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of Government bonds in Philadelphia, as furnished them by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.	Clos'g.
U. S. Bonds '81	119¼	119¼	119¼
U. S. Bonds '62	107¾	107¾	107¾
U. S. Bonds '64	107¾	107¾	107¾
U. S. Bonds '65	107¾	107¾	107¾
U. S. Bonds '65 new	107¾	107¾	107¾
10-40s	104¾	104¾	104¾
Currency 6s	119	119	119

James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

U. S. Bonds '81	119¼	119¼	119¼
U. S. 5-20s, 1862	107¾	107¾	107¾
U. S. Bonds '64	107¾	107¾	107¾
U. S. Bonds '65	107¾	107¾	107¾
U. S. 5-20s, 1865	107¾	107¾	107¾
10-40s	104¾	104¾	104¾
U. S. Bonds, January and July, 1865			107¾
U. S. 5-20s, January and July, 1867			110¾
U. S. 5-20s, January and July, 1868			110¾
Union Pacific Railroad			92
Central Pacific Railroad			92
Currency Purifies			110¾

—The New York stock market sold down today severely on railways, especially on the Northwestern and St. Paul. It is said that the directors of the latter company will soon issue a circular to explain the manner in which the late dividend has been honestly earned. The dividend on common stock, which usually amounts to an increase of the capital, is subject to the ratification of a vote of the stockholders. The earnings of the road for the past year have been:

Increase	749
January 1 to December 7, 1870	7,041,275
January 1 to December 7, 1869	6,936,131
Increase	237,941

—The following table, made up from dispatches received at J. W. Kennedy's Stock rooms, Apollo building, No. 89 Fourth avenue, shows the prices at the New York Stock Exchange during the day:

December 14, 1870.	12:30 M.	1:00 M.	12:30 M.	1:30 M.	2:30 M.	3:30 M.
U.S. 6s	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾
Do scrip	95	95	95	95	95	95
Gold	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾
Sterling						
Michigan Cent.	120¾		120¾		120¾	
Lake Shore	92¾	93	92¾	93	92¾	93
Illinois Cent.	138		138			
Cleve. & P.	94¾					
P. Ft. W. & C.	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾
Do pref'd	87¾	87¾	87¾	87¾	87¾	87¾
Do scrip						
Ft. Wayne	94¾	94¾	94¾	94¾	94¾	94¾
Chic. & Alton	141		141			
Do pref'd	116		116			
Rock Island	108		108			
A. & T. and Z.	35		35			
Do pref'd	70		70			
Toledo	97¾		97¾			
Wabash	47¾	47¾	47¾	47¾	47¾	47¾
Do pref'd						
Terre Haute	11		11			
Do pref'd	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾
Adams Ex.	56		56			
American	96		96			
United States	48		48			
Pacific Mail	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾

*Ex 5 ¾ cent dividend.

—Messrs. Boren & Fox, brokers and members of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, furnish the following quotations of the closing prices to-day of the most active stocks:

Pennsylvania Central	62¾
Philadelphia and Erie	27
Lehigh Navigation	59¾
Catawissa preferred	35
Old Creek and Allegheny Railroad	39
Lehigh Valley Railroad	59¾
North Pennsylvania Railroad	19
Camden and Amboy Railroad	119
Schuylkill Navigation	19¾
Reading	49¾

—Messrs. Iba H. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of Government bonds in Philadelphia, as furnished them by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.	Clos'g.
U. S. Bonds '81	119¼	119¼	119¼
U. S. Bonds '62	107¾	107¾	107¾
U. S. Bonds '64	107¾	107¾	107¾
U. S. Bonds '65	107¾	107¾	107¾
U. S. Bonds '65 new	107¾	107¾	107¾
10-40s	104¾	104¾	104¾
Currency 6s	119	119	119

—Messrs. Boren & Fox, brokers and members of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, furnish the following quotations of the closing prices to-day of the most active stocks:

Pennsylvania Central	62¾
Philadelphia and Erie	27
Lehigh Navigation	59¾
Catawissa preferred	35
Old Creek and Allegheny Railroad	39
Lehigh Valley Railroad	59¾
North Pennsylvania Railroad	19
Camden and Amboy Railroad	119
Schuylkill Navigation	19¾
Reading	49¾

—Messrs. Iba H. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of Government bonds in Philadelphia, as furnished them by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.	Clos'g.
U. S. Bonds '81	119¼	119¼	119¼
U. S. Bonds '62	107¾	107¾	107¾
U. S. Bonds '64	107¾	107¾	107¾
U. S. Bonds '65	107¾	107¾	107¾
U. S. Bonds '65 new	107¾	107¾	107¾
10-40s	104¾	104¾	104¾
Currency 6s	119	119	119

—Messrs. Boren & Fox, brokers and members of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, furnish the following quotations of the closing prices to-day of the most active stocks:

Pennsylvania Central	62¾
Philadelphia and Erie	27
Lehigh Navigation	59¾
Catawissa preferred	35
Old Creek and Allegheny Railroad	39
Lehigh Valley Railroad	59¾
North Pennsylvania Railroad	19
Camden and Amboy Railroad	119
Schuylkill Navigation	19¾
Reading	49¾

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1870.

TERMS:

One copy, per year.....$2 00
In clubs of twenty, per year.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter up of the club.

PROVIDENCE ON THE SIDE OF THE HEAVIEST ARTILLERY.

NAPOLEON the Great is credited with saying, "Providence is on the side of the heaviest artillery." Because of this utterance he has been bitterly assailed by many as scouting the idea of divine interposition in the affairs of men, and as repudiating the truth of the scripture adage, "the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong." His real intent, however, appears to have been to express with scriptural keenness the fact that physical and organic laws are institutions of the Creator, wise and salutary in themselves, unbending in their operation, and universal in their application. Thus, should some HOWARDS, full of the tenderest solicitude for the welfare of his fellows, and embarked upon a mission of the highest benevolence, trust himself to cross the ocean in a vessel not seaworthy, he would not reasonably expect Providence to interpose to save his life by setting aside for the occasion those material conditions and natural principles whereby floating bodies are sustained upon the surface. In like manner, it would be folly to suppose that GOD would send a ship to the bottom, through subversion of those laws which He has established over matter, merely because the craft contained a crew of pirates, guilty of robbery, murder, blasphemy and every species of debauchery. But while the friend of humanity would sail to his death on account of violating those fixed and invariable principles which keep substances from sinking, he would experience those intense internal delights that spring from active moral faculties, and while the buccaneers would be the wards in society, in consequence of obeying certain physical laws which the other had infringed, they would not escape the consequences of surrendering themselves to the dominion of brutal propensities and sanguinary passions. Obedience to each natural law is attended with its own reward, and disobedience with its own punishment. This is exactly what men mean when they say that the day of miracles has past, and exactly what BONAPARTE meant when he said that "Providence is on the side of the heaviest artillery." Indeed, the Bible itself affirms as much, in declaring that the battle is not *always* to the strong, thereby indicating that when it is not, it is an exception to the general rule, dependent upon conditions which rarely enter into the contest.

The truth of BONAPARTE'S aphorism finds signal illustration in the present war between France and Prussia. For years he did not mean by the strongest artillery the mere possession of the most cannon or the guns of longest range, but all of these elements which give superiority to belligerent army, such as drill, discipline, equipment, endurance, leadership, in addition to numbers. Deprived of the organizing mind of BISMARCK and of the military genius of MOLTKE, at the outset of hostilities, Prussia would not have been likely to-day to be crowned with the magnificent victories at Woerth, at Gravelotte, at Sedan, or to be holding Strasburg and Metz by capitulation, or to be encompassing Paris; for SURENNETTE, attempting to carry out his own plans in disobedience to orders, blundered in the early part of the campaign, and the Crown Prince merely executed strategic plans which another mind had prearranged for his performance. Stripped of the needle-gun, Prussia might have found in the Chassepot a weapon that would have foiled the skill of her generals, counteracted the numerical superiority of her troops, made nugatory the excellence of her military discipline, and deranged her most judicious combinations. Bereaved of those educational advantages which characterize her soldiers, Prussia would have lacked in her armies that individual intelligence, which, other things being equal between opposing forces, invariably gives preponderance of fighting ability; and such defect might have prevented her from passing in six weeks from the situation of threatened invasion to that of prodigious vanquishment of the enemy on its own soil. Without her comprehensive and improved system of calling men into the field from every nook and corner of a vast area, at short notice, armed and equipped, and concentrating them rapidly at desired points for active service, Prussia might have found herself unable to present that formidable array, at the proper moment, which stayed NAPOLEON upon the frontiers, and forced him into an attitude of hesitating prudence.

Such elements of success are what BONAPARTE meant by "the heaviest artillery." His maxim of war is full of the spirit of General THOMAS'S admonition to the officer in charge of a battery. "Keep everything in place," said he, "for the turning point of a battle may depend upon a buckle or a linch-pin." Victory is reserved for those who have fitted themselves for its achievement by a course of provident and perspicuous preparation; reverses are the natural consequence of neglecting to utilize that complicated machinery of means, energies and arrangements which are inseparable from the accomplishment of great outward effects. In other words, just as there are fixed and invariable laws which govern matter, so there are established and unbending laws which govern success. What Philosophers and divines term GOD's providence is really that settled method—that order pervading and restraining all existence, animate and inanimate—which results from those unerring rules of action that, from the very beginning, have been prescribed by infinite wisdom for the preservation, development and control of all creation.

There is neither heresy or impiety in the aphorism, "Providence is on the side of the heaviest artillery," for it embodies the affirmation that those who seek triumph in any undertaking, must conform their plans and doings to those laws which make the attainment which is sought practicable. A cause is not sure to be successful because it is good, nor unsuccessful because it is evil. While in the former possesses inherent advantages, these may be sacrificed by clumsiness in the adaptation of means; while the latter is surrounded with natural drawbacks, it may win by an aptroit marshaling and manipulation of instrumentalities. We find the principle of this exhibited in the fact that the most pious and charitable person on earth, who should swallow a deadly drug by mistake, in the absence of any medicine to counteract the effects of the poison, would die; while a man who cheats, lies, steals, tyrannizes, and, in short, violates a great variety of the moral laws, might escape the fatal consequences of the same oversight, by the timely use of an antidote.

BUTCHERY OF THE SOIL.

There is no argument in favor of protection which the advocates of free trade find it so difficult to assail with any show of success, as the one against the policy of exporting to foreign countries the fertilizing constituents of the soil in the shape of raw materials. It is a proposition too plain to be disputed, that a bushel of wheat, a bale of cotton, or a tierce of rice, embodies a certain quantity of those earthy elements whose presence on farm or plantation is indispensable to the growth of these several productions. Transport the grain, fibre or kernel far away from the region where it is cultivated, and forthwith a portion of the fructifying components of the land is forever transferred, permanently diminishing the productivity to that extent. South and West we find innumerable examples of this butchery of the soil, attributable to the lack of that home market which it is the province of protection to supply, and which it invariably supplies in time, under a wise and stable application of its beneficent principles.

Up to the present time only one sixty-seventh part of the area suited to the cultivation of cotton has been utilized. Had the whole superficies capable of producing that staple been devoted to its growth, the uninterrupted abstraction of the fertilizing constituents of the soil, and their transportation to distant points, must have resulted in a constantly diminishing annual product, until the cost of cultivation would have exceeded the marketable value of the crop, and the land been compulsorily surrendered back into the hands of nature. Already throughout the cotton belt has an immense number of acres, once yielding the greatest abundance, been turned into open fields, and abandoned to sedge-broom and fennel—sterility resulting from the very cause we are considering. New plantations, carved out of the surrounding forests, have taken the place of the worn out lands to undergo in their turn a like impoverishment and desertion. Whole counties in the long-settled portions of the South have suffered such deterioration of productivity as to drive the wealthier classes to seek homes in other localities, where a virgin soil was open to occupation, or where dwindling fruitfulness was yet in its early stages. In other quarters farmers are wisely resorting to the use of artificial sources of manure, and are introducing from far-off places, at considerable expense, large quantities of phosphates, guano and other fertilizing substances, to replace the elements of vegetation abstracted by a course of exhaustive cultivation.

Similar conditions surround the area devoted to the growth of grain. A few years ago, Ohio and Illinois contained the most productive wheat fields in the west; now these are to be found in Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota, with a growing tendency to recede toward the setting sun. Every twelvemonth there is a diminution in the capacity of the soil to yield the same number of bushels to the acre as during the previous season; and while there is this falling off in absolute quantity there is a deterioration in quality, imperfection naturally resulting from the increasing scarcity of those fructifying qualities necessary to the sustenance of the crop. At the rate this impoverishment of land is going on, it cannot be a great many years more before the West must cease to be the granary of the United States. Should not the approach of this calamity be arrested by a due return to the soil of the fruitful constituents of which it is being robbed more and more, the blame will rest with that free-trade policy which encourages distant markets for our cereals, instead of their creation near the farm.

Plain and palpable facts arise some considerations vital to the welfare and prospects of the agricultural classes. He who tills the soil under the disadvantage of diminishing fertility, is not only constantly depreciating the value of his land, but is making the same investment of labor, skill, experience and money annually less remunerative. The more distant he is from market, the greater is the tax of transportation to which he is subjected, the smal er to him is the net result of his investment of capital and effort, and the more restricted is he in the choice of the crops he will cultivate. Those perishable or bulky articles of food which the earth produces in the greatest abundance, at the smallest outlay of toil, and with the least drain upon fertility, such as potatoes, turnips, beets, cabbages and pumpkins —growths far more profitable than cereals, between France and Prussia—are unknown in the immediate vicinity—are the very products whose the necessities of his surroundings compel him to raise sparingly. The only practicable way to export to foreign countries, or to distant marts, these highly valuable and remunerative products of agriculture, is to convert them into iron, steel, hardware, linen, cotton or woolen fabrics—in other words, to have them consumed on the spot by a manufacturing population, and thus made part of the cost of transforming other raw materials into commodities that can be cheaply transported long distances.

The farmer who views with pride and exultation the building of a railroad in his neighborhood may perhaps consider it a matter of very little personal concern to him whether the rails were made in England or the United States; yet he has an individual interest of no small magnitude in this question. If they have been produced abroad, they represent many carloads of agricultural produce consumed by the numerous laborers employed in converting the crude ore into the finished rail. On the supposition that all this produce was supplied from American farms, then not only did those who grew it send a part of the fertilizing constituents of their lands more than three thousand miles to market, where, after subserving human nutrition, it served to enrich a foreign soil, but the money paid for it, with much added, has been expended in buying and bringing back, in the shape of rails, a metal which our own country contains in the most lavish abundance. On the supposition that all this agricultural produce was supplied entirely from foreign sources, then, by the importation of these rails, the farmers of the United States were deprived of an American market in which they could have sold an immense quantity of breadstuffs, to be consumed by the men and the furnaces of the production of the rail-manufactured railroad iron on our own soil out of native ores, and who would have become even more extensive purchasers and profitable customers next year. In either case, every such rail must be viewed as a present injury, however it may prove a factor in the multiplication of future development, or reduce to the community the tax of transportation. The advantages will result from causes and tendencies altogether disconnected from those that constitute the drawbacks. Such influences hidden behind influences, and consequences of the back of consequences completely altering the complexion of the question, are the very ones which the revenue reformers ignore in their discussions on the relative merits of free trade and protection, or when enlarging upon the beauties of this system.

Free trade operates to put distance between the farmer and his markets; protection operates to diminish the distance between the two. Free trade practically encourages the impoverishment of the soil, by fostering the policy which exports its fertilizing elements to foreign countries; protection reinforces the productivity of land, by providing a regular and unfailing means of speedily returning to it, at small expense, the nutritive properties abstracted by the successive crops. Free trade undertakes to show, or rather takes for granted, that manufacturing industry and tillage are not necessarily connected and dependent; protection demonstrates by the logic of facts, figures and experience, that they walk hand in hand, in indissoluble alliance. Free trade tends to make a few great commercial towns, with a poor, ill-fed, poor, interior country; protection operates for the benefit of those in the interior in a far greater ratio than for that of those near the coast and ports. Free trade assumes that we can dispose of enough exports abroad to pay for an unlimited quantity of imports; protection proves that we can export only certain descriptions of articles, and those only to countries where the money price is higher than with us, whether we take their goods or not.

These are to farmers, as well as to manufacturers exceedingly important considerations, full of practical teachings, and worthy of the most serious examination. Let them be pondered and fully understood by the thinking voters of the nation, and we shall not doubt that the verdict of the ballot-box will be in favor of protection.

THE FINANCIAL OUTLOOK.

Unfortunately for themselves and for society, there are people so full of the spirit of fault-finding that, could they spy out no other object of complaint, they would carp at the Sermon on the Mount. These professional growlers have discovered new occasion for objurgation in the publication of the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury. They are vexed to learn that the national debt has been reduced $191,154,765 76 since March 1, 1869, and think the country would have been much better off to-day had this large sum been allowed to remain in the pockets of the people, as part of the capital of industry, instead of having been absorbed by taxation, and employed to discharge part of the public obligations. As this idea is being pressed with considerable ingenuity and pertinacity in some quarters, particularly in Democratic and Revenue Reform circles, it may be worth while to exhibit some of the beneficial effects which have flowed from the financial policy inaugurated and maintained by the Republican party since ANDREW JOHNSON went out of office.

When GRANT was installed as President, our fiscal affairs had been the foot-ball of a series of empirical experiments. Our Finance Minister had tried to squeeze the currency down to the point of resuming specie payments, until he was choked off by Congress. The Seymour-and-Blair party had been advocating on every stump in the country a measure for the redemption of the five-twenty bonds that was tantamount to partial repudiation. We had a depreciated and fluctuating paper money, whose daily value was wholly at the mercy of the gold gamblers in Wall street. Our national securities were far below par, at home and abroad. This degradation of our credit in the markets of the world was due, not to distrust of our ability, but to doubt of our integrity. The Government had no fixed plan of organizing the finances. Discontent prevailed among the people. The administration presented a spectacle of intestine quarrels. Embarrassment and apprehension were visible in business circles.

What a transformation has been wrought within less than twenty-two months. The taint of possible repudiation has been completely removed, and the public credit fully and signally re-established in popular confidence everywhere. The gold premium has been brought down from an average of 40 to an average of 11 per cent., appreciating the purchasing power of every paper dollar in circulation from 71 to about 90 1, and adding some $67,000,000 to the aggregate value of our currency, besides hundreds of millions of dollars to the marketable value of our national bonds. The sale of surplus coin in the government vaults has demoralized the speculative plans of the gold sharpers, and made more Black Fridays an impossible contingency. Such entire reliance has been created in the good faith of the nation toward its creditors, that an advance in the premium could not be sustained even amid the disturbing influences of a great European war. On the contrary, the tendency is strongly downward, in spite of all the opposition, and that financial problem, which has vexed the country ever since the close of the war—how to return to specie payments without a sudden and violent shock—is rapidly approaching solution. Add to these realizations and prospects the extinguishment of about one-thirteenth of the aggregate of the public debt, with an annual saving of some ten million dollars on interest account, which otherwise must have been provided for by taxation until the payment of the principal, and we have a record of accomplishments which no other country or financial system can exhibit.

But these are not all the results and considerations. We have been able largely to reduce internal taxes. To these has been due the great and sudden rise in the cost of living within the past few years—a rise which many have attributed to the volume of the currency and its irredeemable condition. GIBBONS, in his volume on "the public debt of the United States," aptly says on this point:

"For nearly four years, while our terrible civil war was raging, the national expenditure kept prices took place. The cost of living in 1861 was little more than it was from five to seven years past, and much less than it was from 1865 to 1868, and in several other years of that term. The war was carried on at the expense of a million of men, and by the vastness of its labors and its cost in treasure and other matters it seem of pigmy proportions; the negotiations for the Government loans were thrust in every man's face; still the war, which converted the enormous magnitude of two hundred millions of labor, and of capital, into dividend the North against itself; the rebel army was still more destructive, for it put in place in thousands of brave minds, yet, marvelous to say, the cultivation of the fields went on, the harvests were gathered in, the mines flourished, and people continued to live in much the same manner as before the war. Increase of cost. But as soon as the home tax was levied, all was changed. The capital of the people and the national wealth were affected, the consequence became immediately apparent."

The most onerous and disturbing of these internal taxes have been removed by Republican legislation, many others ameliorated, and some put in a course of extinguishment. Already the good effects of removing these burdens are beginning to be felt. Rents and prices of commodities established on conditions no longer existing cannot be maintained, and are preparing to descend to a normal level. The cost of living must soon decrease in proportion to this downward movement, while the wheels of industries is touching with rosate hues the skies of 1871. The difficulties that have sat so long unbidden guests at so many firesides of the land will disappear with the internal taxes that gave them existence.

While it is not likely that the diminution of the public debt will proceed much so rapidly during the next twenty-two months as it has during the past twenty-two, in consequence of the large reduction of the exactions of government, the slower cancellation of the principal, in combination with a growth in population and wealth, will operate toward a continued lightening of the public burdens, until we shall be able to welcome the day when internal taxes will no longer be levied, and the swarm of assessors and collectors, with their multitude of assistants, will be seen and needed no more. If, since March 1, 1869, nearly two hundred million dollars have been abstracted, in the shape of taxes, from the earnings of the people, to be applied to a discharge of that amount of the national obligations, it was because there was a necessity to exact from them this expansion and obscurity which characterized our fiscal affairs, and to give to them symmetry, individuality, direction and right principles of management. Despite the croakers, it would not have been the part of wisdom to have left these millions in the pockets of the tax payers. They have accomplished a work which the mass of community would never have wrought as individuals. Without the use to which they have been put, confidence at home and abroad in the credit of our government could not have been restored, the gold premium broken down, the purchasing power of our currency appreciated, the market value of our bonds enhanced, the resumption of specie payments brought near, and, generally, our finances placed upon a secure basis, and the country both relieved of a multitude of burdens and entered upon the high road to normal prosperity.

SOCIETY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FISKS.

Few intelligent people at the present day, doubt that society is, at least in part, responsible for the existence of the crimes and vices which render penitentiaries and reformatory prisons necessary institutions. Even a slight knowledge of social phenomena is sufficient to make the truth manifest to the careful observer, and it is surprising that it was ever unknown or lost sight of. At length certain sides of the subject are well understood, and the most beneficent results have been already achieved by the application of those practical remedies which knowledge suggests. In the great cities hundreds of boys and girls are yearly removed from influences under which they would certainly have grown up to be pests and destroyers of their kind; while in the case of multitudes who, long ago, trained in evil, are doomed to suffer in consequence, punishment is so administered as to secure reformation. In these general statements the reader will recognize the great and blessed movement of recent times, so full of bright promise for the future. We refer to the subject just now merely for the purpose of pointing out a remarkable failure or deficiency in the organized efforts of our American society for the protection of itself and the temporal salvation of its members. The topic to which we allude is one of considerable delicacy, and perhaps that is the reason of the neglect of our zealous and energetic reformers to take hold of the evil, and to suggest some means of its arrest. Indeed, we fear that, in spite of our benevolent intentions, it will be impossible for us to state our meaning, without offense. An example may afford us aid. In an able and widely circulated New York journal, a few days ago, we read an article entitled "A Plea for JAMES FISK, Jr." The plea seemed to us powerful. It appears that that notorious scamp in early life did not enjoy those advantages of home instruction which form so effective a safeguard oftentimes against the temptations of the world. Almost destitute of education, he became an employe of a menagerie company, and in that character rambled over the country. Having accumulated a little capital, he provided himself with a pack, or a wagon, we are uncertain which, and again traversed the land, as a peddler. Thus he became a capitalist and prepared to enter upon a more conspicuous scene in the metropolis of the nation. One can easily believe that by this time FISK, Jr., had become very corrupt, doubtful as to the reality of honesty, and ready to make himself enormously rich in whatever mode. Still we do not believe that, at that time he was *turpissimus*, wholly base. He had grown up in a Christian country, and daily met with persons who professed to believe in life to come, and to regulate their actions by principle. The experience which seems to have put the finishing touch to FISK's character, and to have made him the accomplished rogue he is, was to find a member of a leading Brooklyn church willing to attend to his legal affairs, and a prominent law-reforming Judge willing to sustain him in the practice of his rascalities. If our information is correct as to the respective amounts of the salaries, we have no hesitation in pronouncing them high enough. We have time and again pointed out the absurdity of paying the Prothonotary, who is really the Clerk to the Civil Court, three terms the compensation allowed to the Judges, and of fixing the Clerk of the Quarter Sessions above the aggregate pay of the three Judges of the Criminal Court. The system is monstrous, but it will be found most tenacious of life and hard to eradicate. Already the office-holders have got wind of Mr. WHITE's bill, and some of them are predicting its defeat, or at least such modification as will save them from its operations, by making it take effect *after* the expiration of the terms of the present incumbents. The bill itself provides for taking effect on the first of July next. The all of the "politicians" will be invoked, and the "organs" will be relied on to help perpetuate these fat salaries as rewards for faithful services in the party. The contest will be a bitter one, but the people will win in the end.

A MULTITUDE OF ADVISERS.

The political article in the current number of *Harper's Weekly* argues that "the old issues are not settled yet, simply because the old spirit survives;" that, therefore, "those Republicans, who, upon a theory that Revenue Reform is the most vital and paramount of all issues," would switch off on that or any other new issue, "assume a very heavy responsibility." The *Independent*, on the contrary, says the old issues are worn out, dead, and cites as proof that reconstruction is disposed of by General GRANT in his message in half a dozen lines. It argues that a new issue is necessary, if the Republican party and General GRANT's administration are to succeed, and is confident that Civil Service Reform should be that issue. The *Independent* advances some strong arguments, drawn from the New York standpoint, which are more or less applicable to the whole country. We quote as follows:

"We trust that President Grant will open his ears to this fact. And, when we speak of opening them, it is because we think they have been shut by the din of the Custom-house in New York and Brooklyn. Such an institution as the Custom-house in New York, or the Navy Yard in Brooklyn, is a standing menace to any administration. It is a permanent organization, which, by its very existence, is a power in politics. Whatever its management (or mismanagement) may be, it is a power which every administration must conciliate. We are constrained to say that the Custom-house from the beginning of Grant's administration under the smoothest of appointments, has been a source of constant anxiety to the purposes of a more than warrantable partisanship. A wholesome revolution in the Custom-house as could be compassed by the President, would be a blessing to the whole country. We do not say that it can be done. But whether it shall be shaken, he it let the effort be made. If that effort succeeds, well and well. If it fail, would it not be the reminder of his term to the great work of reforming the civil service? Then everywhere take care that none but able and honest men shall be appointed to all offices under the Government; if he would light his cigar, and all up and down the land, the immediate effect would be to make the country be jarred or stunned to realizing how important such a power is to the welfare of the country and to the success of his administration—he might yet retrieve the bad history of his term, and appropriate his fading fame to the reviving green. Otherwise, the people will write a new page in their Presidents."

On the other hand, the *Herald* has made the discovery that "Cuba is the Pivot of Politics and the Touchstone of GRANT." It is confident that the country waits only for GRANT to bring forth a new issue, old ones of the past ten years having been exhausted. It avers that the country is "weary of the day of small things coming after the day of such great things. And it is asking with no small anxiety what pause has come in the working of the great machinery of the administration, that to the President it seems to furnish so little material for creating the enthusiasm which, as general in the field, he had the power so plentifully to evoke."

And so on—nearly every other leading journal in the land has a prescription of its own which it is pressing on General GRANT with an earnestness of life or death. On one point this multitude of advisers agree. The country requires that the administration shall have a positive policy. This is announced in the concluding portion of General GRANT's message. The various measures and set practically at work; nothing could be framed that would be more satisfactory.

HERMANS REDIVIUS.

At the fairs gotten up during our war for the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers, no articles offered to the competition of buyers, or as curiosities to the inspection of sight-seers, were more eagerly sought for, or looked at with more interest, than revolutionary relics. Objects which had once belonged to WASHINGTON were especially interesting, as all felt that there was a fine fitness in putting them to such use. We have been reminded of this application of sentiment to utility by a statement which we find in recent German-American newspapers; but to render it intelligible to some readers, we must direct their attention for a moment to a far away time. Some time in the ninth century of the Christian era, CAESAR AUGUSTUS being Emperor of Rome, QUINTILIUS VARUS Roman Governor of Germany, when marching through a pass of the Teutoburger forest, was attacked by a countless host of Germans. His force consisted of three legions. After a battle of three days, the Roman army was completely destroyed, and VARUS put an end to his own life. When the news of the catastrophe reached Rome, the city was filled with alarm and lamentation. SUETONIUS relates that AUGUSTUS was so overcome with horror and consternation, that for months, he let his hair and beard grow, from time to time would cry out, "O QUINTILIUS VARUS, give me back my legions!" and as long as he lived continued to observe the anniversary of the calamity as a day of mourning. The organizer of the revolt which inflicted so terrible a disgrace upon the Roman arms and for a time delivered Germany from foreign rule, was ARMINIUS, whom the Germans call HERMANN and revere as the first and greatest of their national heroes and patriots. We may now mention the incident which gives present interest to this ancient occurrence, and shows that the combinations of reality sometimes surpass the inventions of the boldest imagination.

About two years ago, some Prussian soldiers at Hildesheim, when digging a trench, came upon a Roman urn filled with silverplate. The circumstance excited no little interest at the time, and the whole subject was thoroughly investigated by competent antiquarians, who at length came to the conclusion that the treasure-trove was a relic of the VARIAN defeat, and, in fact, formed HERMANN's portion of the spoils. This conclusion rests upon several grounds, more or less solid, which we need not detail. The articles now form one of the most precious deposits in the Museum at Berlin. Valuable as remains of Roman antiquity, for every German patriot they have a higher and sentimental value as mementos of the illustrious HERMANN. Baron GEROLT, Prussian Ambassador in Washington, has lately received from home a perfect imitation or facsimile of these relics, of the same size as the original, and liberally permits them to be exhibited for the benefit of the Fund for the relief of the German wounded. As it is hoped that these curiosities will be exhibited in other places besides Washington and Baltimore for the same good object, the statement we have made, may prove useful. And then, the mere interest of the subject may perhaps justify the space we have given to it. HERMANN, turned to dust more than eighteen hundred years ago, still aiding his countrymen in a war with the Gauls, is a rather remarkable fact.

THE terms of the lease of the Camden and Amboy Railroad, for which the Pennsylvania Central has been for some time negotiating, are believed to have been virtually agreed upon, though nothing has been made public. It is understood, however, that the dividends guaranteed to the New Jersey stockholders are in the neighborhood of ten per cent. The arrangement cannot be regarded with lively satisfaction by Philadelphia, and there is just room for the suggestion that one of the objects of the Central in making the offer to help a Philadelphia steamship line is to appease that city and make her feel that probably after all she is the principal terminus, not only of the Central but the Pacific Road. But the steamships as yet exist only in the imagination, and may never exist anywhere else, while the Camden and Amboy lease is as good as a fixed fact.

SURGEON GENERAL BARNES'S REPORT.

According to Surgeon General BARNES's Report, the mortality from disease among the white soldiers of the army during last year was considerably less than in former years. In regard to the colored troops, the showing is not so favorable. It would appear that the colored soldiers are more liable to disease than the white soldiers, and that their diseases are more frequently fatal.

Every reader is probably aware that, among the compensations of war in modern times, is to be reckoned the opportunities which it affords for the study of anatomy and the improvement of surgery. It was wickedly said that GOETHE rather rejoiced in the battle of Jena, because it furnished him with the means of pursuing and completing an investigation in osteology in which he happened just then to be much interested. It is, we believe, only very lately that the fearful opportunities of war have been turned to the best account in the advancement of science. Surgeon BARNES states that the first part of the medical and surgical history of the war is almost all printed. It will be a work of nearly seven hundred and fifty quarto pages; a vast collection of carefully prepared statistical tables, and a digest of facts of very great interest and value. In consequence of the act of Congress which authorized the issue of artificial limbs to mutilated soldiers and seamen, great numbers of the men who had thus suffered, were led to visit Washington, and thus the Medical Department were enabled to study the "remote effects of injuries and mutilations." The results of such observations are contained in the work named above, and will, no doubt, be of peculiar value. It seems that in the elaborate reports of the English and French medical services, the history of cases does not extend beyond the time when the men are discharged or invalided. Hence, this American Surgical History may be expected to prove a rich source of light to the medical profession in Europe as well as America concerning the ulterior consequences of wounds and the real merits of different modes of treatment.

Some interesting paragraphs of Dr. BARNES's report relate to the museum under the charge of the Department. A notion of the value of the institution may be derived from the fact mentioned by the Surgeon General that, during the year nearly eighteen thousand visitors have called their names. While many of the objects in the collections are valuable only or chiefly to physicians, not a few of them possess a more general scientific interest. In particular, the great collection of "human crania" is especially worthy of mention. A description of these with the necessary tabular statement of measurement, etc., has been prepared, and is recommended to Congress as worthy of publication. Dr. BARNES says: "The tables, arranged to correspond with those published in the *Crania Americana*, of SAMUEL GEORGE MORTON, would worthily supplement that great work." We sincerely trust that Congress will not be so much engrossed with its own affairs as to neglect the interests of the country so much at stake abroad as that work of Dr. MORTON. and Congress is not likely to make a more judicious appropriation than the one asked for by Dr. BARNES would be.

A New York journal, a few days ago, making mention of the French Fair for the relief of wounded soldiers, took occasion to refer in no very flattering strain to the American ladies who have been conspicuous in its patronage. The aristocratic tendencies displayed in the preference for articles of French manufacture were indicated. It rallied them for the pretension which they seem to imbibe with fine manners of which they are capable of reproducing nothing better than a parody. The writer made no secret of his belief that the sympathies for France so decidedly expressed come from the same source as those manifested a few years ago by the fashionable world for the South. Comprehending neither the causes nor the probable consequences of the war, and being destitute of real rank and social position, they are ready to bow down before whatever has the pretence of aristocracy. The writer was not aware that American families derive from a residence in Paris were sketched in a style better adapted to excite contempt and laughter than envy and admiration. Evidently the journalist simply took advantage of the Bazar as a text whereupon to found a diatribe on the shoddy aristocracy of New York. Naturally enough "Franco-Americaines" are not pleased to have their patriotic cause represented as enjoying only that sort of republican patronage. Having quoted extensively from the article, their "organe" enters the lists in defence of the American ladies who "assisted" at the Bazar.

"Our great confrere is verily unjust. It must be that he has never set foot in the Bazar, to speak of it in such terms. He has not seen the women who visited it, and whom we made it a point of honor to receive with the same courtesy with which we find in recent German-American newspapers; but to render it intelligible to some readers, we must direct their attention for a moment to a far away time. Some time in the ninth century of the Christian era, CAESAR AUGUSTUS being Emperor of Rome, QUINTILIUS VARUS Roman Governor of Germany, when marching through a pass of the Teutoburger forest, was attacked by a countless host of Germans. His force consisted of three legions. After a battle of three days, the Roman army was completely destroyed, and VARUS put an end to his own life. When the news of the catastrophe reached Rome, the city was filled with alarm and lamentation. SUETONIUS relates that AUGUSTUS was so overcome with horror and consternation, that for months, he let his hair and beard grow, from time to time would cry out, "O QUINTILIUS VARUS, give me back my legions!" and as long as he lived continued to observe the anniversary of the calamity as a day of mourning. The organizer of the revolt which inflicted so terrible a disgrace upon the Roman arms and for a time delivered Germany from foreign rule, was ARMINIUS, whom the Germans call HERMANN and revere as the first and greatest of their national heroes and patriots. We may now mention the incident which gives present interest to this ancient occurrence, and shows that the combinations of reality sometimes surpass the inventions of the boldest imagination.

About two years ago, some Prussian soldiers at Hildesheim, when digging a trench, came upon a Roman urn filled with silver-plate. The circumstance excited no little interest at the time, and the whole subject was thoroughly investigated by competent antiquarians, who at length came to the conclusion that the treasure-trove was a relic of the VARIAN defeat, and, in fact, formed HERMANN's portion of the spoils. This conclusion rests upon several grounds, more or less solid, which we need not detail. The articles now form one of the most precious deposits in the Museum at Berlin. Valuable as remains of Roman antiquity, for every German patriot they have a higher and sentimental value as mementos of the illustrious HERMANN. Baron GEROLT, Prussian Ambassador in Washington, has lately received from home a perfect imitation or facsimile of these relics, of the same size as the original, and liberally permits them to be exhibited for the benefit of the Fund for the relief of the German wounded. As it is hoped that these curiosities will be exhibited in other places besides Washington and Baltimore for the same good object, the statement we have made, may prove useful. And then, the mere interest of the subject may perhaps justify the space we have given to it. HERMANN, turned to dust more than eighteen hundred years ago, still aiding his countrymen in a war with the Gauls, is a rather remarkable fact.

THE terms of the lease of the Camden and Amboy Railroad, for which the Pennsylvania Central has been for some time negotiating, are believed to have been virtually agreed upon, though nothing has been made public. It is understood, however, that the dividends guaranteed to the New Jersey stockholders are in the neighborhood of ten per cent. The arrangement cannot be regarded with lively satisfaction by Philadelphia, and there is just room for the suggestion that one of the objects of the Central in making the offer to help a Philadelphia steamship line is to appease that city and make her feel that probably after all she is the principal terminus, not only of the Central but the Pacific Road. But the steamships as yet exist only in the imagination, and may never exist anywhere else, while the Camden and Amboy lease is as good as a fixed fact.

HARD WINTERS AND HEALTH.

It is a common impression that what is called an exceptionally mild winter, such as the present has thus far been, is an unhealthy winter. People call moderate weather in December or January unseasonable, and seem to suppose that the fact thus designated accounts for the prevalence of disease, or warrants them in expecting it. We suspect that the popular notion on the subject is a popular, or what SIR THOMAS BROWN denominated a vulgar error. Sudden transitions from mildness to severity of temperature doubtless subject the human constitution to violent shocks, and are very likely to produce disease, unless proper precautions be taken to guard against evil effects by change of clothing, or by avoiding exposure. Such sudden changes have always been a dangerous and disagreeable feature of our middle State climate, and their injurious effects, in the absence of careful observation, or just discrimination, may have produced confusion in the popular mind as to the real connection between health and temperature. Then, we know that people used to be more careless than they are now in keeping their feet dry, and mild moist weather in winter may have been held responsible for sickness which was really due to wet feet, that fertile cause of disease. Through such mistakes the common notion may have arisen. But unless we err, in a climate like that of Pennsylvania severe cold always exposes the human system to a hard and more or less dangerous trial. That is, not being Esquimaux, or Laplanders, vehement cold not being their element, the inhabitants of these latitudes, during most of the year living in a warm or else a very moderate temperature, cannot but suffer more or less injury from the severity of a winter such as we often have in Pennsylvania. An "old fashioned winter," which many long for, for the sake of its peculiar enjoyments, is perhaps a visitation to be dreaded. Those best provided with close houses and warm raiment cannot wholly avoid its violent shocks. We need not mention the positive suffering of the less fortunate. In such a season those sudden and violent transitions referred to above as so injurious, become a daily experience of all who ever leave their fires, and besides in many cases the evils of insufficient ventilation, there is an incessant and extraordinary draught upon the vital energies which must tend to shorten life. We do not profess to speak on this subject with the authority of professional knowledge, and are quite ready to stand corrected.

THE Rev. DR. CATHER, an Englishman, has been engaged for several months in the endeavor to organize on this side of the Atlantic a branch of a society now of some age in England. Having met with considerable success in the western cities he is now at work in the East. He operates by means of the "religious breakfast," which is, we believe, a British institution, that may be worthy of adoption among us. The precise character of the new Association which DR. CATHER is trying to introduce is not very clear from any statement we have seen. It vaguely contemplates "links like another Evangelical Alliance. "Supreme loyalty to CHRIST" is specified as the principle which holds the Association together, and all who recognize the power of the bond, are eligible as members. At the breakfast in New York, a few days ago, DR. C. said that "the objects of the society cover the entire religious life of the Evangelical churches of the country." It is to utilize charity and beneficence, and to bring them to bear on the national life. It also proposes "to discuss broad Catholic questions interesting to Catholic Christendom." As, in connection with the purposes of the society, the "creation of a code of Christian morals" was spoken of as "the great desideratum of the age," we infer that to supply the want is among the ends of the organization. Indeed, DR. C. said, "We purpose to create a high school of Christian thought and to organize the vital forces of society. We would create a national church out of the mob of sects, and bind together in Christian fellowship all Evangelical Christians." The enterprise appears so vast and vague as thus presented, that probably most people who hear of it will share the misgivings regarding its realization, which the TIMES-TYPO perhaps intended to express when he said at the aforesaid breakfast: "We Yankees are men of limited thought, who are most at home in modest peripheries of ideas, and prefer to have the diameters of our lives as small as possible." However, the society, though anonymous, is said to have been in operation for some years in England and to have accomplished much good. It has now been organized in this country with all the needful officers and machinery, and its merits will be put to the test of experiment.

A THIRTY YEAR old instance of the power of the press to prevent improper Congressional action has just been made public by a letter from CHRISTOPHER MORGAN, who was a member of the House of Representatives in 1841. At that time the nomination of Hon. EDWARD EVERETT as Minister to England was pending in the Senate, and to reject him, as was feared would be done, on account of his opposition to very clear principles, would probably involve the country in trouble, especially as JOHN TYLER's administration had just begun, and his then unpronounced course had awakened intense solicitude in view of measures of vast national importance then pending. This crisis brought many politicians to Washington, among them THURLOW WEED, who spent much time with Mr. MORGAN. One evening the two called on Senator MOREHEAD, of Kentucky, with whom they found Senator MANGUM, of North Carolina. After a long talk, Senator MOREHEAD told them that Mr. EVERETT's confirmation would fail on account of his abolition sentiments, a result that would occasion injurious agitation throughout the country. Mr. WEED said "this must be stopped—the country can't afford the agitation," and accordingly wrote a brief letter announcing what was about to be done and appealing to the people to speak out against it. Then Messrs. WEED and MORGAN went to work and by seven the next morning had written letters to twenty or twenty-five leading journals all over the North. That evening's mail brought the Baltimore *Patriot* denouncing Mr. EVERETT's rejection, and every succeeding day brought similar word from the other journals that had been written to, until it appeared as if the entire country had been impulsively aroused to avert what seemed an impending evil. The Senators heeded the words of the newspapers and confirmed Mr. EVERETT, HENRY CLAY being encouraged to speak in his behalf, whereas he had before determined to give only a silent vote for him.

SUPERFLUITY of zeal in the execution of the law was rather strikingly illustrated, a few days ago, by the arrest of a party of Pittsburgh sportsmen. They were charged with shooting partridges in violation of a statute which was believed to have been passed by a late legislature for the protection of the bird. A law of the kind was enacted not long ago, but it applies only to two or three counties in the eastern part of the State. It prohibits killing partridges for three years, and is of the same tenor with a law which is alleged to have produced good results in Minnesota. In spite of the precedent, and admitting the desirableness of keeping up a supply of the birds in question, persons familiar with the subject deny the need of any additional legislation for the purpose. By our present Pennsylvania game law, shooting partridges is prohibited for six weeks or two months. The occasional scarcity of the bird, which sometimes leads people to fear its extinction, is not the reason they say, of its destruction by man, but of the severity of certain seasons. But they multiply with prodigious rapidity, and after a favorable winter, they are always so abundant that